(c) the steps Government are taking to curb such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

विदेशी ऋण

66. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :
श्री राम जेठमलानी :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 24 जनवरी, 1995 के "पॉयनियर" में "देयर इज़ ए लेसन टु बी लर्न्ट" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि देश पर विदेशी कर्ज की राशि इतनी अधिक है कि देश के प्रत्येक नागरिक को लगभग 3000 रुपये अदा करना होगा;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो मार्च, 1994 के अंत तक विदेशी ऋण की कुल कितनी राशि थी;

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि स्वीकृत ऋण की कुछ राशि प्राप्त नहीं की गयी थी ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसकी राशि कितनी थी तथा ऋण की उक्त राशि, जो मार्च, 1994 के अन्त तक प्राप्त नहीं की गयी थी के लिए सरकार द्वारा अदा किए गए प्रतिबद्धता प्रभार की कुल राशि कितनी थी ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग) जी, हां 1 मार्च, 1994 के अंत में रक्षा ऋण, अनिवासी भारतीयों की जमा राशियों और अल्पावधिक ऋण सहित कुल बकाया विदेशी ऋण 90.723 बिलियन अमेरिकी डालर होने का अनुमान है ।

(घ) जी, हां ।

(ङ) मार्च, 1994 के अंत में सरकारी तथा गैर-सरकारी लेखों पर ऐसे कुल विदेशी ऋणों की राशि जो बचनबद्ध तो हैं लेकिन संवितरित नहीं की गयी हैं, 51,890 करोड़ रुपए बैठती है । इस राशि में भूतपूर्व सोवियत संघ से संबंधित 24,862 करोड़ रुपए शामिल नहीं हैं । पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान असंवितरित ऋणों पर सरकार द्वारा भुगतान किए गए बचनबद्धता प्रभार की राशि क्रमश: 59 करोड़ रुपए, 68 करोड़ रुपए और 70 करोड़ रुपए हैं ।

External debt of India

67. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total external debt of India as on 31st December, 1994;

(b) what are the accounts included in the term called "External Debt";

(c) whether it is a fact that India ranks as the third largest debtor in the World; and

(d) if so, details thereof and steps taken by Government to avert a debt trap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The total external debt outstanding including defence debt, NRI Deposits and short term debt is estimated to be US $90.723 billion at the end of March, 94.

(b) The term 'External Debt' includes multilateral and bilateral debt on Govt. and Non-Govt. Ac-

count, IMF borrowings, Export credit, Commercial borrowing, NRI & FC (B&O) Deposits, Rupee debt on defence and civilian accounts and short term debt.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. According to World Debt Table published by World Bank in January, 1995, India ranks as 3rd largest debtor after Brazil and Mexico. Government is conscious about the country's external debt liability and keeps a constant watch on the level of country's indebtedness and likely burden of debt servicing. While contracting foreign loans, it is always kept in view that the debt burden and the debt servicing liability of the country does not exceed the capacity of the economy to service such loans. Government has already introduced a programme of economic reforms aimed at stabilisation combined with longer term restructuring. These reforms would improve the economic condition of the country and revitalise our growth process, including our export earning capacity, so as to enhance our capacity to repay the loans and to ensure that this debt servicing burden does not exceed the capacity of economy to service such loan.

Appointmetn of workmen Directors in Nationalised Banks

68. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a policy to appoint Workmen Directors in Nationalised Banks;

(b) the extent of success achieved under the policy;

(c) whether there is a proposal to also ensure nomination of directors with agricultural background in banks; and

(d) if so; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) The Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 (in short called Bank Nationalisation Act) provides for appointment of amongst others, one Director from amongst such of the employees of the concerned bank who are workmen under relevant clauses of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947. As on date such workmen employee Directors are in position in 17 out of 19 Nationalised banks.

The Bank Nationalisation Act also provides for nomination of Directors having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of different sectors like agricultural and rural economy, banking cooperation, economic, finance, small scale industries, representing the interest of depositors, farmers, workers and artisans.

Speedy disposal of insuranse claims

69. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to devise and consider a better system for speedy disposal of Insurance claims of road accident victims;

(b) whether it is a fact that insurance companies are very tardy in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to streamline their operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) In order to expedite the settlement of third party claims, a structured formula for payment of compensation to road accident victims, based on age group and income criteria, has been introduced in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 w.e.f. 14th